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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1993-1994 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1995

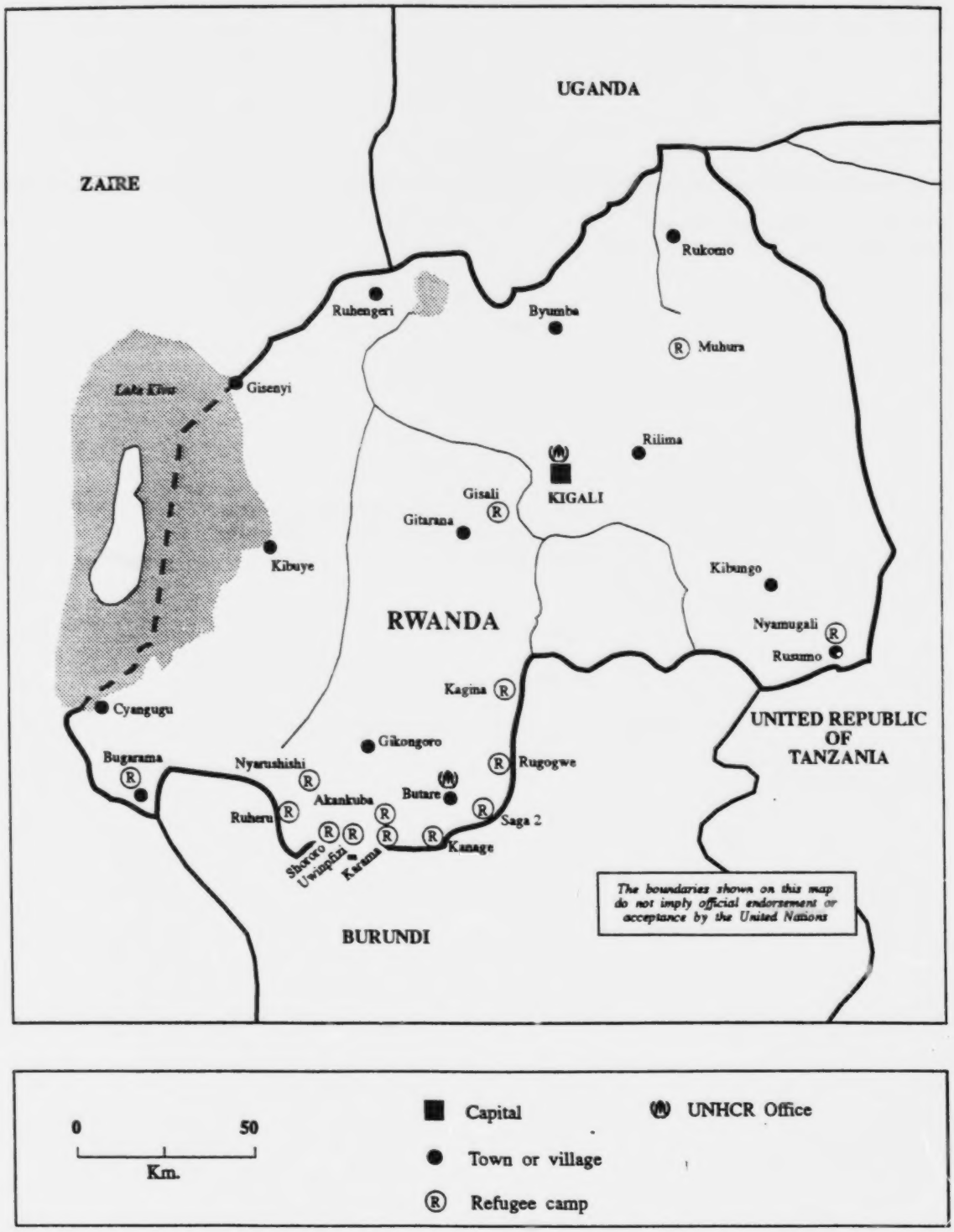
PART I. AFRICA

Section 14 - Rwanda

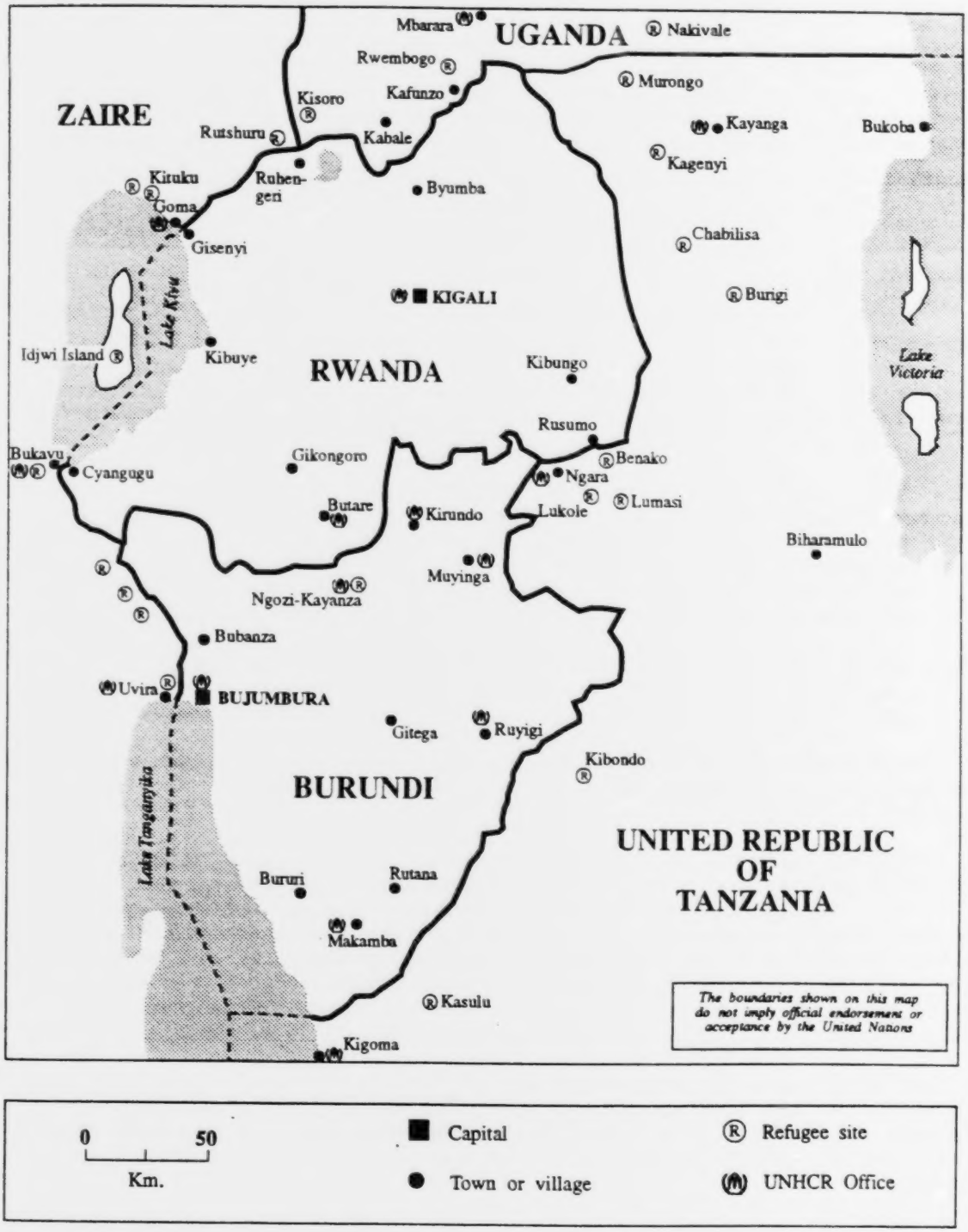
(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.94-03419 (E)

RWANDA


UGANDA
ZAIRE
Rukomo
Ruhengeri
Byumba
Muhura
Lake Kivu
Gisenyi
Rilima
KIGALI
Gisali
Gitarama
Kibuye
Kibungo
RWANDA
Nyamugali
Rusumo
Kagina
Cyangugu
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
Gikongoro
Bugarama
Nyarushishi
Rugogwe
Butare
Akankuba
Ruheru
Saga 2
Kanage
Shororo
Uwingiza
Kazuma
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
BURUNDI
0
50
Km.
Capital
UNHCR Office
Town or village
Refugee camp

AREAS AFFECTED BY THE BURUNDI AND RWANDA CRISES



I.14 RWANDA

Country Overview

Characteristics of the refugee population

1. At 31 December 1993, Rwanda hosted a refugee population of 300,200 persons, including 300,183 Burundians and 17 refugees of various nationalities. The number of persons receiving material assistance from UNHCR was 275,040, including 275,030 Burundians. The composition of the refugee population was as follows:

Nationality	Figures at 01.01.93	Figures at 31.12.93	Location	Type of assistance
Burundi	3 784	275 030	Camp/Town	EM/CM/LS
	21 369	25 153		Not assisted
Other	3	10	Town	CM
nationalities	6	7		Not assisted

2. The December 1993 census of Burundian refugees who arrived as of late October 1993 indicated the following demographic breakdown:

Children aged under 5:	20 per cent
Children aged between 5 and 12:	25 per cent
Adult men:	26 per cent
Adult women:	29 per cent

3. The majority of Burundian refugees are farmers of Hutu origin who arrived in Rwanda following inter-ethnic violence in Burundi in 1972, 1988, 1991 and 1993.

4. The violence that followed the attempted coup d'état on 21 October 1993 and the assassination of President M. Ndadaye and six members of his Government led within a few days to the exile of thousands of Hutu refugees to neighbouring countries. In Rwanda, preliminary estimates indicated a new refugee case-load of over 375,000 persons, but the estimates were revised downwards by the census which was conducted at the end of December 1993 and which established the number of new refugees at 273,000. These Burundian refugees included several hundred Tutsi herders.

5. The Burundian refugees who arrived in Rwanda between 1972 and 1974 have settled in Rwanda with permanent refugee status. Between July and October 1993, several thousand of them returned spontaneously to their country following the democratic process and the election of the new President of Burundi.

6. Gisali camp was still accommodating 675 Burundians, the case-load left over from the 1988 and 1991 inflows.

Major developments (1993 and first quarter 1994)

7. The conflicts between the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) and Rwandese Government forces, which started in northern Rwanda in October 1990, were followed by a lengthy process of negotiations. On 9 February 1991, the six concerned Governments in the region signed the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration to find a durable solution to the problem of Rwandese refugees; the Declaration assigned UNHCR and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) responsibility for submitting a plan of action to donors. The implementation of the plan depended on the establishment of a broadly representative transitional government. The peace negotiations in Arusha, Tanzania, between the RPF and the Government led to the signature on 4 August 1993 of the peace agreements and a protocol on the repatriation of Rwandese refugees.

8. Despite the full support of the international community, which sent in 2,500 soldiers as part of a multinational buffer force, the laborious implementation of the peace agreements was interrupted on 6 April 1994 by the death of the Presidents of Rwanda and Burundi as they were returning from a meeting in Tanzania. This incident immediately caused an outbreak of violence in which hundreds of thousands of persons died within a few weeks. A large number of Rwandese immediately emigrated to neighbouring countries, particularly Tanzania and Burundi.

9. In this atmosphere of civil war, the Burundian refugees decided that it was better to return en masse to their country of origin. The number of Burundian refugees who were still settled in the various camps in the Butare region in the southern part of the country in late May 1994 is estimated at some 60,000.

10. In anticipation of the results of the peace agreements, several thousand Rwandese refugees who had been settled in Uganda returned spontaneously to Rwanda to the regions under RPF control.

11. From the start of the hostilities, the entire staff of international organizations was urgently evacuated and installed in neighbouring countries.

Programme objectives and priorities

12. As soon as security conditions allow, UNHCR staff will return to Rwanda and resume its humanitarian assistance activities on behalf of Burundian refugees and Rwandese refugees who have repatriated spontaneously from Uganda and Burundi. Priority will then be given to preparations for the large-scale repatriation of Rwandese from Tanzania and Burundi.

Care and maintenance of Burundian refugees

13. With the support of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), UNHCR will resume its care and maintenance activities for the Burundian refugees who have stayed in the camps in the regions of Butare and Kigali. In addition to the

usual care and maintenance activities, the objective of the UNHCR Branch Office is to start up community service activities and to expand educational structures, particularly for primary schools, in order to promote the economic reintegration of these refugees when they return to their country. These activities will be continued in 1995 for as long as this group of refugees stays in Rwanda.

Voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees

14. The Branch Office's objective will be to promote the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees, account being taken of the political situation in Burundi and the process of reintegrating returnees in their region of origin. That will be done in close cooperation with the national authorities and those of Burundi. Appropriate assistance will be granted to the beneficiaries of this operation.

Local settlement of Burundian refugees

15. The objective of the UNHCR Branch Office will be to redefine appropriate assistance for the local settlement of Burundian refugees who arrived in Rwanda between 1972 and 1974. This group of refugees may not opt for voluntary repatriation and many of them who used to be self-sufficient may have become displaced persons with new assistance needs.

Return of Rwandan refugees

16. UNHCR was to finalize the plan of action resulting from the Dar-es-Salaam Declaration and the Arusha agreements on the return and reintegration of Rwandese refugees who had fled their country. It provided for a three-year operation covering the voluntary repatriation of about 55,000 Rwandese refugees from Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire. However, the consequences of the civil war which began again on 6 April 1994 will require UNHCR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to reconsider the conclusions of the socio-economic studies carried out in 1993. The refugees who decide to return spontaneously will nevertheless be assisted accordingly under a project financed by special funds.

Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

17. In order to deal with the inflow of Burundian refugees, UNHCR fielded an emergency response team in late October 1993 which worked in cooperation with the Rwandese authorities, other United Nations agencies, NGOs and churches. The assistance operation was effectively coordinated at the central level in Kigali and at the local level in Butare.

18. The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs will continue to take part in the implementation of the programme with personnel based in the camps and responsible for registration and security.

19. The World Food Programme (WFP) has been designated to supply food aid. The basic food ration for the Burundian refugees in southern Rwanda was to be composed of 350 grams of cereals, 120 grams of beans, 25 grams of oil

and 5 grams of salt. Before the events of 6 April 1994, WFP had agreed to add 50 grams of wheat-soya blend to this basic ration. In view of the refugees' unsatisfactory nutritional status, WFP should rapidly provide the refugees with all these foods, as well as with wheat-soya blend, maize and beans for supplementary food.

20. Because of logistical difficulties and insufficient human resources, nutritional problems started to develop in December 1993. UNHCR was able to cope by increasing its logistical support and the human resources of the operational partners in charge of food distribution, primarily the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The European Union (EU) sent dry skimmed milk and high protein biscuits to provide supplementary or therapeutic food for the most vulnerable groups. Swiss Cooperation also supplied 50 tons of the same items to assist the refugees in the Butare region.

21. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) France, MSF Belgium and MSF Netherlands provided assistance in the health, nutrition, water and sanitation sectors. OXFAM and CARE made major sanitation improvements and set up a water supply system in the new camps. With the support of the human resources of the African Humanitarian Initiative (IHA/CPPS), International Action Against Hunger (AICF) and Caritas Rwanda, Médecins du Monde (MDM) and the Belgian Red Cross, implemented nutritional programmes and gave the hospitals broad support.

General Programmes

(a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

22. The results of the presidential and legislative elections held in Burundi in June 1993 prompted the Burundians to request repatriation; 4,000 of them were repatriated between July and October 1993, whereas it had been foreseen that only 3,200 of the refugees present in Rwanda would be repatriated.

23. This operation was brutally interrupted by the death of the President of the Republic of Burundi and the subsequent inflow of 273,000 persons. An allocation of $4,014,848 was incurred against the Emergency Fund in October 1993 to finance initial assistance for refugees settled in the five sub-prefectures in the south: Kigali, Kibundo, Butare, Gikongoro and Cyangugu. UNHCR assistance covered transport and logistics, domestic items, drinking water and sanitation, health and shelter, as well as the necessary staff. While WFP covered food needs, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) provided assistance for health and mother and child care.

24. About 30 heavy vehicles from the pool in Ethiopia were deployed to Rwanda, with their technical crew and repair workshop, to strengthen capacity to transport refugees from crowded camps to new sites and food items to distribution points.

(b) 1994 planned implementation

25. Now that the situation in Burundi has calmed down, but insecurity has become more widespread in Rwanda since 6 April 1994, a great many refugees settled in the south have returned to their country of origin. Those who decide to stay in Rwanda will benefit from an assistance programme.

26. However, UNHCR cannot undertake any humanitarian assistance until the hostilities have ended. The re-establishment of peace will make it possible to resume assistance for Burundian refugees who have chosen to stay in Rwanda despite all the events they have experienced. The main activities to be undertaken are the setting up of income-generating projects, assistance to persons at risk and the financing of scholarships. Burundian refugees who have arrived in Rwanda since October 1993 will be grouped in a few camps where they will continue to receive care and maintenance assistance under Special Programmes for 1994.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

Care and maintenance

27. The 1995 allocation for the care and maintenance of Burundian refugees who have arrived since October 1993 will have to be revised in the light of the political and economic situation in the country and on the basis of an assessment of the needs of the refugees who have stayed in the camps. It is hoped that the majority of the Burundian refugees will return to their country. The allocation concerns only 10,000 persons who will probably stay in Rwanda.

28. Some Burundian refugees from the inflows of the 1970s may not opt for spontaneous repatriation because they have begun to settle locally and to become self-sufficient. They might now have been displaced and be unable to return home. They might need assistance to become self-sufficient again. The UNHCR Branch Office will have to negotiate with the Rwandese authorities to obtain a special status which will enable these refugees to become fully integrated into the new Rwandese society.

29. Assistance will be provided to a small group of Burundian refugees, mainly urban refugees, in the form of counselling and financial assistance to begin carrying out income-generating activities. Limited assistance will also be granted in the form of subsistence and medical care allocations for the most needy refugees.

30. Special attention will be paid to women refugees, in particular women heads of household. A number of vocational training scholarships will be reserved for them. The UNHCR Branch Office will support the "Batiks" project, which was submitted by a group of widows and women heads of household.

Local settlement

31. Of the refugees who have decided to stay in Rwanda, 1,400 students may receive financial assistance to attend school.

Special Programmes

Education Account

32. The proposed allocations for 1994 and 1995 cover the needs of 140 and 111 Burundian beneficiaries, respectively.

Emergency assistance for Burundian refugees

(a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

33. The events of October 1993 in Burundi led to a large-scale inflow of refugees to Rwanda which totalled 273,000 persons in late 1993. In November 1993, an allocation was incurred against the 1993 Emergency Fund and then UNHCR launched an appeal for funds to collect $17.1 million to cover, for three months, the needs of 600,000 Burundian refugees who had fled to neighbouring countries. Assistance, including supplies of food, shelter, domestic utensils and health services, as well as water supplies and sanitation, was provided in 21 camps with the cooperation of the Government, WFP and local and international NGOs. However, the relief operation was handicapped by complex logistics and the magnitude of the refugees' needs.

(b) 1994 planned implementation

34. The assistance programme for new Burundian refugees was reviewed in early 1994. The medical and nutritional situation had improved considerably and more stable assistance programmes had been set up. In April 1994, the civil war forced many refugees to return to Burundi.

35. According to the estimates made in late May 1994, some 60,000 Burundian refugees chose not to return to Burundi and will stay in the camps in southern Rwanda. A reassessment of their state of health and needs has not yet been carried out because of security conditions. However, as soon as the situation permits, UNHCR will resume its assistance activities for this case-load with the support of the United Nations specialized agencies. A provisional estimate of their needs was included in the May 1994 appeal for funds and in the one to be launched in July 1994 to cover the needs of refugees as a result of the crises in Burundi and Rwanda. The main sectors involved are logistics, transport, domestic items, drinking water supplies, sanitation, health and nutrition, camp organization and infrastructures, social services and, in particular, primary education. The operational costs of UNHCR and the executing agencies are also included.

36. UNHCR will, as soon as possible, encourage NGOs likely to do so to provide their operational support for repatriation operations in southern Rwanda. The refugees will be grouped in certain camps in order to reduce logistical costs and facilitate the monitoring of assistance.

Assistance for the return and reintegration of spontaneous Rwandese returnees

(a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

37. In 1993, representatives of Rwandese refugee communities in Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania received assistance from UNHCR to attend the peace negotiations which took place in Arusha, Tanzania.

38. Delays in the establishment of the broadly representative transitional Government postponed the implementation of activities as presented in the plan of action.

(b) 1994 planned implementation

39. Before the events of April 1994 and the implementation of the Plan of Action for the return and reintegration of Rwandese returnees, some 13,000 persons returned spontaneously in February and March 1994. UNHCR provided them with assistance in the form of domestic items and shelter, while WFP supplied food assistance.

40. The needs of future Rwandese returnees will be reviewed again in the light of political changes and the country's socio-economic situation. Initial needs for the assistance of 100,000 Rwandese returnees will be included in the July 1994 appeal for funds.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

41. UNHCR assistance on behalf of Rwandese returnees will continue in 1995 as long as the Rwandese wish to return home voluntarily. This document will be updated in September 1994 to provide specific details on the proposed level of assistance for 1995.

Other Trust Funds

Secondary education project

42. A special secondary education project awarding scholarships to 131 Burundian refugees in Gisali camp was financed by EU funds for the 1993-1994 academic year. This programme will be continued and these scholarships and the costs of this assistance are included in the General Programmes budgets for 1994 and 1995.

Income-generation project

43. In 1993, income-generation projects were implemented for about 100 women, most of whom are heads of household. The satisfactory results of these projects enabled UNHCR to terminate this assistance. Future needs will be included in the General Programmes.

Miscellaneous

44. The EU and the Japan Committee for Refugee Relief financed two assistance projects to provide material items to some 100,000 Rwandese displaced as a result of the conflicts in the northern part of the country in 1993.

Programme delivery and administrative support costs

(a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

45. As a result of the large-scale inflow of several thousand Burundian refugees since late October 1993, primarily in Butare prefecture, an emergency response team was sent to Rwanda to help the Kigali Branch Office deal with the situation. In late December 1993, 10 or so international staff members were made available to the new Butare Sub-Office to monitor and supervise the implementation of the international community's assistance. At the same time, 13 international staff members were appointed to strengthen the staff of the UNHCR Branch Office in Kigali. Supplementary obligations were incurred to fit out new offices and purchase additional office equipment. Vehicles and means of communication were purchased to facilitate the supervision and coordination of this programme.

(b) 1994 planned implementation

46. The revised estimates for 1994 are much higher than the initial estimates. Nine new posts for international staff and 12 local staff posts were created as of 1 January 1994 in the Kigali Branch Office. In addition, 19 posts, 3 international and 16 local, were created for the Butare Sub-Office. The special nature of the operation in Rwanda has prompted UNHCR to cover all administrative expenditures under Special Programmes.

47. As a result of the events of 6 April 1994 and the ensuing violence, UNHCR evacuated all of its staff from Rwanda and redeployed it to Burundi and Zaire. As soon as the situation allows, essential staff will return to Rwanda to assess the situation, the needs of the refugees and spontaneous returnees and possibilities of the resumption of all of UNHCR's humanitarian activities.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

48. Initial estimates for 1995 are much lower than the revised estimates for 1994, primarily because the 1995 budget estimates include only the extension of two international staff members' posts and five local staff posts at the Kigali Branch Office. The extension of the other posts at the Branch Office and all the posts at the Sub-Office will be reviewed in the second half of 1994. A limited reserve for non-staff costs has been included in the 1995 budget, but will be reviewed in due course.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN RWANDA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1993	1994		1995	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1993 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
4 014.8	-	-	EMERGENCY FUND	-
259.7	286.9	250.0	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	250.0
195.2 a/	73.6	420.8 c/	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	-
551.7	616.0	250.0	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	240.0
2.7 b/	-	-	RESETTLEMENT	-
5 024.1	976.5	920.8	Sub-total of operations	490.0
275.2	307.5	-	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Annexes Ib and IIb	-
5 299.3	1 284.0	920.8	TOTAL (1)	490.0
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
306.0	305.5	305.5	EDUCATION ACCOUNT 111 university scholarships	150.0
			BURUNDI/RWANDA	
4 823.6	-	2 500.0	EMERGENCY PROGRAMME	*
-	-	2 148.3	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Annexes Ia and IIa	504.5
-	-	343.8	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Annexes Ib and IIb	74.4
1 103.5	-	-	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Various types of assistance	-
82.4	24.7	17.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officers	52.0
6 315.5	330.2	5 314.6	TOTAL (2)	780.9
11 614.8	1 614.2	6 235.4	GRAND TOTAL (1 + 2)	1 270.9

* Requirements not yet determined.

a/ Allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation.

b/ Obligation incurred against Overall Allocation.

c/ Allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation.